

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for entering data and selecting functions in a portable phone, the portable phone having a multi-function key for generating a plurality of input signals, comprising the steps of:

(a) displaying a plurality of menu items in a main menu upon generation of a first input signal by manipulating the multi-function key when the portable phone is in a stand-by state;

(b) shifting to a menu item by generating a second input signal by manipulating the multi-function key; and

(c) selecting the menu item by generating a third input signal by manipulating the multi-function key.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

(d) displaying a plurality of menu items in a sub-menu if the selected menu item is the sub-menu;

(e) shifting to a sub-menu item by generating the second input signal by manipulating the multi-function key; and

(f) selecting the sub-menu item by generating the third input signal by manipulating the multi-function key.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

(g) displaying a corresponding set of digits/characters if the selected menu item indicates a digit/character input mode;

(h) shifting to an intended digit/character by generating the second input signal by manipulating the multi-function key; and

(i) selecting the digit/character by generating the third input signal by manipulating the multi-function key;

(j) sequentially performing the steps (h) and (i) if a different digit/character is to be entered; and

5 (k) ending the digit/character input mode by generating a fourth input signal through manipulation of the multi-function key when digits/characters are completely entered.

4. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of selecting a
10 function if there exists the function related to the digit/character input mode when the fourth input signal is generated.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of directly
entering a corresponding function if a specific input signal is generated in the
15 stand-by state.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the multi-function key is an integrated multi-stage structure.

20 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the multi-function key is a sliding switch.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the multi-function key is a rotary
switch.

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9. The method of claim 7, wherein the plurality of input signals are

generated by a key press, a key slide right or a key slide left of the multi-function key, alone or in combination.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the plurality of input signals are
5 generated by a key press or a key rotation of the multi-function key, alone or in combination.

11. The method of claim 7, wherein the plurality of input signals are
generated depending on the number and duration of the manipulations of the key.

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12. The method of claim 8, wherein the plurality of input signals are
generated depending on the number and duration of the manipulations of the key.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the plurality of input signals are
15 generated depending on the combination of the number and duration of the manipulations of the key.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the multi-function key is an
integrated two-stage sliding type and generates the input signals according to a
20 number and a duration of a key press or a key slide.

15. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of displaying
corresponding information each time an input signal is generated.

25 16. The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of displaying
corresponding information each time an input signal is generated.

17. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of indicating the current position of a cursor by blinking the cursor.

5 18. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of indicating the current position of a cursor by blinking the cursor.

19. A method for entering data and selecting functions in a portable phone, the portable phone having a multi-function key for generating a plurality of
10 input signals, comprising the steps of:

displaying menu items in a main menu upon generation of a first input signal;

shifting to a menu item by generating a second input signal;

selecting the menu item by generating a third input signal; and

15 performing a predetermined function by generating a fourth input signal.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the first to fourth input signals are predetermined among the plurality of input signals generated according to the number and duration of a key press, a key slide right or a key slide left of the
20 multi-function key.

21. A method for using a multi-function key in a portable phone for inputting digits/characters in a digit/character input mode, the multi-function key generating a plurality of input signals according to a number and a duration of a
25 key press, a key slide right or a key slide left of the multi-function key, comprising the steps of:

displaying a set of digits/characters upon generation of a first input signal by manipulating the multi-function key;

shifting to a digit/character each time an input signal is generated by sliding the multi-function key to the left or right while the set of digits/characters
5 are displayed;

selecting the digit/character upon generation of a second input signal by manipulating the multi-function key; and

ending the digit/character input mode upon generation of a third input signal by manipulating the multi-function key.

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22. The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of displaying a digit/character selection menu for selecting a digit/character upon generation of the first input signal, selecting a specific digit/character by a fourth input signal generated by manipulating the multi-function key, and displaying the
15 selected digit/character.

23. The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of marking the selected digit/character while digits/characters are displayed.

20 24. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of blinking a cursor on the selected digit/character to indicate the selected digit/character.

25. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of blinking a cursor on the selected digit/character to indicate the selected digit/character.

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26. The method of claim 24, wherein the first to fourth input signals

are predetermined among the plurality of input signals generated by manipulating the multi-function key.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the first to fourth input signals
5 are generated according to the number and duration of the manipulations of the key.

28. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of dialing the
selected digits/characters as a telephone number upon generation of the third input
signal.

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29. The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of displaying
an icon to transfer to another set of digits/characters.

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30. The method of claim 29, further comprising the steps of:
transferring to the another set of digits/characters by generating an input
signal by manipulating the multi-function key; and
displaying the another set of digits/characters.

31. The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of
20 sequentially performing the steps of shifting, selecting and ending after the
digit/character set indicated by the icon is displayed.

32. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of shifting to
another line of digits/characters upon generation of a predetermined input signal
25 when the digits/characters are displayed in a plurality of lines.

33. A method for telephone number dialing using a multi-function key which generates a plurality of input signals according to a number and a duration of a key press, a key slide left, or a key slide right in a portable phone, comprising the steps of:

- 5 displaying digits/characters upon generation of a first input signal for input of a telephone number by manipulating the multi-function key in a main menu;
shifting a specific digit/character each time an input signal is generated through a key slide left or a key slide right;
selecting the digit/character upon generation of a second input signal by
10 manipulating the multi-function key;
dialing the selected digits/characters as a telephone number upon generation of a third input signal by manipulating the multi-function key.

34. The method of claim 33, further comprising the step of blinking a
15 cursor on the selected digit/character to indicate the selected digit/character.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein the first, second, and third input signals are predetermined among the plurality of input signals generated by manipulating the multi-function key.

20 36. The method of claim 35, wherein the first, second, and third input signals are generated according to a number and a duration of a manipulation of the key.

25 37. The method of claim 35, wherein the first, second, and third input signals are generated according a combination of a number and a duration of a

manipulation of the key.

38. The method of claim 36, further comprising the steps of:
marking the selected digit/character while the digits/characters are
5 displayed; and
displaying the marked digits/characters.

39. The method of claim 37, further comprising the steps of:
marking the selected digit/character while the digits/characters are
10 displayed; and
displaying the marked digits/characters.

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